

100-Day Challenge: PreK to Kindergarten Transition (Process)



Organizations Represented on Our Team

- Guilford County Schools
- Greensboro Children's Museum
- Guilford Child Development (Head Start)
- Guilford County Partnership for Children
- Bringing Out the Best Program
- Community Volunteers

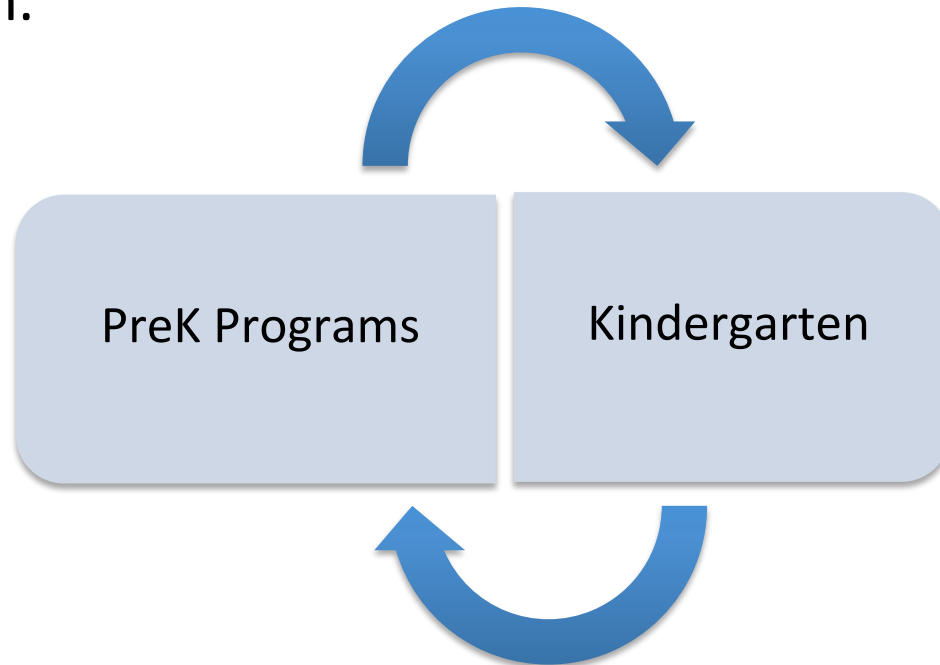
Community Problem Tackled

There is no system-wide process for transitioning children into kindergarten creating confusion for parents, teachers, and administrators.



Challenge Goal

Engage elementary school principals, Guilford County Schools administrators, and PreK programs to improve policies and processes for PreK to kindergarten transition.



How It Links to the Ready/Ready Framework

Responsive and Innovative Early Childhood System

Shared vision & goals

Aligned and accountable policies and programs

Public demand for kindergarten readiness

Equitable, aligned policies and practices

What are best practices?

According to *Effective Transitions to Enhance School Readiness* and the *Denver Education Compact*, there are Four Key Connections that impact transition to kindergarten:

- Child-school connections
- Family-school connections
- School-school connections
- Community-school connections

Successful Transition: Guiding Principles

- It's a **process**, not a program
- Supportive relationships are resources for children
- Different sets of relationships fit different needs – some are supportive, some informational
- Connections serve as a bridge for child, family, and school across time and contexts

Actions Taken



- **Defined the local problem:** there is no system-wide process for transition.
 - We identified elementary school principals as key decision-makers about transition practices.
- **Proposed strategy:** we developed a survey to gain insights from principals.
- **Convened key decision-makers** in PreK and GCS administration to get feedback on proposed strategies.

Results?

- Key decision-makers agreed to pilot two actions with principals:
 - GCS agreed to hold focus groups with eight principals in June 2016 to gather data on current kindergarten transition processes.
 - Summer training for principals will include a short session about brain development and the importance of the first 2,000 days and its impact on school readiness.

Moving forward...



This Challenge team has committed to:

- Evaluate the current state of PreK to K transition as it aligns to the Four Connections framework.
 - Identify small wins that could improve the transition process for 2017-2018
 - Include transition for exceptional children
 - Create shared professional development opportunities for PreK and Kindergarten teachers
- Align kindergarten registration materials
 - Checklist, registration packet, other forms
 - Test with school administrators, teachers, and families

100-Day Challenge Team

- Margaret Arbuckle, Team Leader
 - Amy Pendergrass, Guilford County Schools
 - Judy Newlin, NC PreK, Guilford County Partnership for Children
 - Mary Fuller, Head Start teacher
 - Karen Hawkins, Head Start teacher
 - Madeleine Dassow, Greensboro Children's Museum
 - Angelia Lester, Guilford Child Development
 - Brenda Dunford, NC PreK, Guilford County Partnership for Children
 - Leslie Alexander, Bringing Out the Best
 - Kimberly Long, UNCG
 - Leigh Satalino, Greensboro Children's Museum
 - Kelly McKee, Ready for School, Ready for Life